

Similar to **Figures 1-3**, the switch 40 could include buffers in the line cards 44-46 to double buffer incoming and/or outgoing TDM data streams (**Figure 5**). In addition, the line cards 44-46 could include circuitry to write destination information and identifying information pertaining to the TDM data into one field in the Ethernet frame and TDM data into another field in the Ethernet frame.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 5, 8, and 12 without prejudice.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims with the same numbers:

1. (Amended) A method comprising:
packetizing data from an inbound Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) stream as an Ethernet packet having a header which includes TDM block identification information.

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein packetizing includes:
writing data from the inbound TDM stream into a payload field of an Ethernet packet; and
writing the TDM block identification information into the header of the Ethernet packet.

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein packetizing includes:
writing data from the inbound TDM stream to a first buffer; and
writing data from the inbound TDM stream to a second buffer while the data stored in the first buffer is written into the Ethernet packet.

4. (Amended) A method comprising:
accepting a first, inbound Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) stream into a switch having an Ethernet backplane, the first TDM stream including data;
writing the data into an Ethernet packet;
writing TDM block identification information into the Ethernet packet;
sending the Ethernet packet over the Ethernet backplane; and

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7 writing the data from the Ethernet packet into a second, outbound TDM stream.

1 6. (Amended) The method of Claim 4 further comprising:
2 writing data from the first TDM stream to a first buffer; and
3 writing data from the first TDM stream to a second buffer while the data stored in the first
4 buffer is written into the Ethernet packet.

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1 7. (Amended) The method of Claim 4 further comprising:
2 writing the data from the Ethernet packet to a first buffer; and
3 writing the data from the Ethernet packet to a second buffer while the data stored in the first
4 buffer is written into the second TDM stream.

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1 9. (Amended) The method of Claim 4 wherein the data is written into a first field in
2 the Ethernet packet and the TDM block identification information is written into a second field in
3 the Ethernet packet.

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1 10. (Amended) A switch with an Ethernet backplane, comprising:
2 a bus; and
3 at least one line card connected to the bus, each line card including:
4 circuitry to write data from an incoming Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) stream into
5 Ethernet packets,
6 circuitry to write TDM block identification information into the Ethernet packets;
7 circuitry to send the Ethernet packets over the backplane; and
8 circuitry to write the data from the Ethernet packets into an outgoing TDM stream.

1 11. (Amended) The switch of Claim 10 wherein each line card further includes:
2 a first buffer and a second buffer to double buffer the incoming and outgoing data.

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1 13. (Amended) The switch of Claim 10 wherein each line card further includes:
2 circuitry to write the data into a first field in the Ethernet packet, and

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3 circuitry to write the TDM block identification information into a second field in the
4 Ethernet packet.

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Please add the following new claims:

1 14. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the second field is a destination field and
2 the TDM block identification information is written into the lower bits of the destination field.

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1 15. (New) The switch of Claim 13, wherein the second field is a destination field and
2 the TDM block identification information is written into the lower bits of the destination field.